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CIA Merges Directorate, Office

Washington—Central Intelligence Agency, in another effort to streamline internal intelligence gathering efforts, has merged the Directorate of Intelligence and the Office of the National Intelligence Officers into a new organization called the National Foreign Assessment Center.

According to the CIA, the merger is designed primarily to combine under one person all of the directorate's subordinate elements involved in the production of analyzed intelligence. Robert R. Bowie, deputy to the director of central intelligence for national intelligence, has been appointed director of the center.

The National Intelligence Officers were responsible for the production of national intelligence estimates for the President and the National Security Council. Compiled by the entire intelligence community, these studies provide the government with information on major trends and events abroad that affect the security and foreign policy of the U. S., according to the CIA. The Directorate of Intelligence has been responsible for intelligence analysis and production within the CIA.

Under the reorganization, the new center will continue both these functions. In announcing the move, the CIA noted that no change is contemplated in the procedures for producing national estimates or for intelligence community participation in their preparation.

In a related matter, the CIA also notified aerospace companies dealing with top security matters to tighten procedures concerning the usage and transmission of U. S. top secret codes, according to U. S. officials (AW&ST Oct. 17, p. 20). The new procedure calls for two persons to be present when codes are being used, instead of one. In addition, movement of U. S. codes now requires two couriers instead of one as was previously required. The new code procedures are part of increased emphasis on security to prevent leaks and possible dissemination of information.

In another internal development, the CIA also recently decided to cut 800 to 820 persons from its Directorate for Operations, which is responsible for the agency's covert activities. The staff reduction has been under consideration by the CIA since the wind-down in the post-Vietnam War period. The cutback is being spread over a 26-month period to allow for the impact of retirements and other procedures that would reduce the need for layoffs, according to a CIA official.

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